

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-18 are pending. Please amend claims 1 and 9 as indicated herein. All pending claims and their current status have been reproduced below.

1. (Currently Amended) An active management system for controlling real-time operation of a Small Office/Home Office (SOHO) ~~SOHO~~ network having a SOHO network device and an active management personal computer, the active management system for controlling real-time operation of the SOHO network device comprising:

an active management console device configured to operate in the active management personal computer, the active management console module for enabling real-time communication of active management queries to configure the SOHO network device from the active management personal computer to ~~between~~ the SOHO network device ~~and a user at the active management personal computer~~ during operation of the SOHO network device on an active communication link; and

an active management agent device, remote from the active management console device, configured to operate in the SOHO network device for communicating real-time active management queries to configure the SOHO network device in real-time between the active management console device and the SOHO network device on the active communication link.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising, a firewall module configured to operate in the SOHO network device and communicatively coupled to the console agent for implementing firewall rules in response to query responses from a user.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the active management agent device further comprises a memory device for storing a set of lists.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the set of lists comprises at least one of an approved internal IP address list, an approved destination IP addresses and ports list, a content managed computer identifier list, and a content approved URL and Domain Name list.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a second active management console device operating in a second active management personal computer in the SOHO network.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the active management console device is implemented in software executable by a processor in a personal computer.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the active management agent device is implemented in software executable by a processor in the SOHO network device.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the active management agent device and the active management console device include a protocol stack, the protocol stack for enabling communications between the active management agent device and the active management console device to implement a set of active management gateway functions.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling real-time user input for implementing active management gateway functions in a Small Office/Home Office (SOHO) ~~SOHO~~ network having an active management computer and a gateway device, the method comprising:

receiving one or more data packets that trigger a code to implement an active management gateway function;

in response to receiving the one or more data packets, sending an active management query from the gateway device to an active management console module at the active management computer using an active communication channel, the active management computer remote from the gateway device;

receiving, at the gateway device, an active management query response from the active management console module at the active management computer via the active communication channel, the active

management query response for configuring the gateway device; and
in response to receiving the active management query response at the gateway device, implementing the active management gateway function at the gateway device in real-time according to the information provided in the active management query response.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising displaying options based on the active management query to a user at the active management personal computer.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the active management gateway function is a user input based firewall rule.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the active management gateway function is a real-time, personal, content-filtering function to prompt a user at the active management computer for access authorization based on one of a domain name or a URL.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising, in response to receiving an active management query response from the active management console module indicating an access grant to a domain name, storing an identifier corresponding to the domain name with an access rule to be automatically implemented for subsequent accessing of said domain.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the active management gateway function is a real-time, user access authorization function to prompt a user at the active management personal computer for access authorization to a WAN for a second personal computer in the SOHO network.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the access authorization is based on one of a user name or a network computer identification.

16. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein implementing active management gateway function includes a creating an ALG at the SOHO network device in response to a user approval of a suggested ALG authorization request included in the active management query.

17-18. (Canceled)

19. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the active communication link comprises a communication link transmitting functional information relating to the operation of the gateway device and data traffic.

20. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the active communication link comprises a communication link transmitting functional information relating to the operation of the gateway device and data traffic.